REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended.

Applicants assert that the finality of the Office Action is improper because a new ground of rejection has been introduced. MPEP 706.07(a) states that second actions on the merits shall be final, except where the Examiner introduces a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by Applicants' amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants did not amend the pending claim or file an Information Disclosure Statement in the last response.

In the previous Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because a plastic outside skin cannot allegedly form the claimed glass. In the current Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because it is allegedly not clear as to whether the outside skin forms only a portion of a component. A new ground of rejection has thus been introduced that is neither necessitated by Applicants' amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants request that the finality of the Office Action be withdrawn and the amendments be entered.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been clarified in view of the Examiner's helpful comments. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Haneda et al. (Haneda), U.S. Patent No. 4,996,634, in view of Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 4,809,144. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Haneda and Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest a combination of a car bumper and light unit, with the car bumper comprising an outside skin formed by a wall of plastics material and the light unit having, as component elements, both a housing and glass enabling light emitted

by a light source to be diffused, wherein the outside skin of the car bumper includes an arrangement forming at least a portion of at least the glass of the light unit, the glass being assembled to the outside skin by overmolding or co-injection, as recited in claim 1.

Haneda discloses a bumper shell 1 with a signal lamp 10 attached to the bumper shell 1 (col. 3, lines 18 and 19). As admitted on page 4 of the Office Action, Haneda fails to disclose the glass of claim 1.
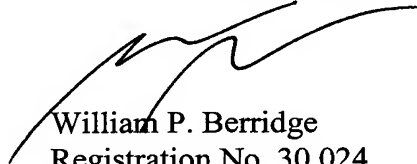
Suzuki discloses a vehicle headlamp (Fig. 1) with a lens 2 that is attached to a housing 1. However, Suzuki fails to disclose the lens 2 assembled to the housing 1 by overmolding or co-injection. Suzuki instead discloses a substance depicted with stippling between the lens 2 and housing 1. Accordingly, even if Suzuki's lens 2 is attached to Haneda's bumper shell 1 rather than Suzuki's housing 1, Suzuki's lens 2 would not be assembled to Haneda's bumper shell 1 by overmolding or co-injection. Haneda and Suzuki thus fail to achieve a resulting structure with the advantages identified on page 8, lines 7-12 of Applicants' specification, for example.

In view of the foregoing, Haneda and Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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WPB:SMS/sxb

Attachment:
    Petition for Extension of Time

Date: September 25, 2006

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